



UNITED STATES SEVENTH FLEET PUBLIC AFFAIRS
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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Seventh Fleet units help in relief operations in Southeast Asia

U.S. Seventh Fleet public affairs

YOKOSUKA, Japan - As directed by U.S. Pacific Fleet, Commander U.S. Seventh Fleet is providing humanitarian assistance and disaster relief to the governments of Indonesia, Sri Lanka, Thailand, and other affected nations to mitigate the effects of the recent earthquakes and tsunamis.

The ships of the USS Abraham Lincoln (CVN 72) Carrier Strike Group, and the ships of Expeditionary Strike Group (ESG) 5, will be diverted to the affected areas to conduct humanitarian relief operations.

As well, P-3C Orion surveillance aircraft from Patrol Squadron (VP) 8 and elements of VP-4, based at Kadena Air Base on Okinawa, Japan, have been deployed in support of search and rescue operations in the area, operating out of Utapao, Thailand.

The P-3's long range and long loiter time capability is an invaluable asset for search and rescue operations as it can view a large area and rapidly provide that information to regional Rescue Coordination Centers. While not able to physically rescue a survivor from the water, the P-3's communications suite and abilities to stay on station, survey for long periods of time, and deploy life rafts in the vicinity of any survivors make it an important component of any search and rescue operation.

Seventh Fleet is prepared to provide an assortment of assets, including ships, aircraft and personnel, to respond as required by higher authority. The U.S. Navy is well equipped and trained for these situations. Because of that, when called upon, units have the capabilities to deliver assistance to areas of the world that need it.

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